of the IPC should be shared by the member countries also. It was also decided to convene the seminar on "Towards a More Vibrant Pepper Economy" in 1993.

20th Session of the IPC held at Madras, India during August, 1992

1. Decided to conduct a study on a scheme to stabilise pepper prices with expert assistance from an appropriate inter-national agencies.

2. Session endorsed the amendment to the agreement establishing pepper community and its rules of procedure with regard to Associate Membership.

21st Session of the IPC held at Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia during June, 1993

1. Holding the international seminar "Towards a More Vibrant Pepper Economy" in Thailand during 1994.

2. Formulated criteria for eligibility of the Associate Membership of the IPC.

Procurement and Export of Iron Ore.

4306. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of iron ore procured from Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh for export, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the procurement and export of iron ore from these States during these years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the procurement and export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The quantity of iron ore procured from Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years is given below :—

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Bihar	Orissa	Madhya Pradesh
1	2	3	4
1991-92	3.74	19.67	52.44
1992-93	2.25	10.87	43.18
1993-94 (P) .	3.22	11.21	43.23

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decline in procurement and exports of iron ore from Orissa and Bihar sector has been due to lesser intake by Japanese Steel Mills owing to continuing recession in steel industry, infrastructural constraints at Paradip Port restricting accommodation of large size vessels and consistent high level of stocks held by MMTC at their loading stations and at Paradip Port.

Fall in procurement and export of iron ore from Madhya Pradesh has primarily been due to lesser surplus availability of Bailadila jumps for exports on accounts of pressing domestic demand by Vizag Steel Plant and sponge & pig iron producers.

(d) The following steps have been taken to increase procurement as well as exports :

(i) New markets have been identified to make up for the shortfall in exports to Japan.

(ii) To suit market demand, product range was enlarged. Paradip Port is now exporting calibrated lumps to Pakistan and Malaysia and fines to China.

(iii) Possibilities are being explored to promote setting up of sizing plants in Orissa-Bihar Sector to match customer's demand for calibrated lumps and fines for sinter making.

(iv) With a view to encourage domestic consumption of iron ore, MMTC is also contemplating setting up an iron and steel complex in Orissa as a Joint venture.

आयातित और निर्यात की गई वस्तुओं के वस्तु-वार मूल्य

4307. श्री राघवजी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान आयातित और निर्यात किए गये खाद्यान्नों, दालों, तेल और चीनी का वस्तु-वार मूल्य क्या है ;

(ख) उपरोक्त प्रत्येक वस्तु पर सभी खर्चों सहित भारत में आयात करने पर प्रति मीटरी कितनी लागत आई ; और

(ग) वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान उपरोक्त वस्तुओं में से किन-किन वस्तुओं के आयात और निर्यात किये जाने की संभावना है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) तथा (ख) अप्रैल-दिसम्बर 1993 की अवधि में किए गए आयात एवं निर्यात का मदवार ब्यौरा भारतीय विदेश व्यापार सांख्यिकी (प्रमुख वस्तुएं एवं राष्ट्र) के दिसंबर, 1993 के अंक में उपलब्ध है जिसकी प्रतियां संसद पुस्तकालय में उपलब्ध हैं ।

(ग) वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान जिन कुछ कृषिजन्य मदों के निर्यात किए जाने की संभावना है वे हैं :— खली; चावल; गेहूं; चीनी; काजू गिरी; तंबाकू; ताजे फल एवं सब्जी और इनके उत्पाद; प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य; मांस और उससे तैयार उत्पाद; मूंगफली और मसाले ।

वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान चीनी, खाद्य वनस्पति, पामोलीन तेल और कच्चे काजू के स्वतंत्र रूप से आयात की अनुमति दी जायेगी । जहां तक अन्य कृषिजन्य वस्तुओं का संबंध है, सरकार आवश्यकतानुसार इस मामले पर निर्णय लेगी ।

Restrictions Imposed on Import of Vehicle Engines

4308. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the restrictions that are imposed on import of used/scrap engines of tractors and automobiles and duty imposed on them;

(b) whether consumers will be benefited if such restrictions and duty are removed; and

(c) if so, the reasons of imposing restrictions and duty on these imports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Under the current Export and Import Policy, import of used and second hand engines of tractors and automobiles may be permitted against a specific licence only. Further, engines of industrial and agricultural tractors which are not interchangeable with other motor vehicles are liable to Customs duty at the rate of 37.5% ad-valorem. However, engines which are inter-changeable with other motor vehicles are liable to duty at the rate of 81.5% ad-valorem. Engines of other tractors (i.e. other than industrial tractors and agricultural tractors) and automobiles are liable to duty at the rate of 81.5% ad-valorem.

(b) and (c) Duty on any commodity is determined keeping in view a number of factors including the need to protect domestic industry and need to generate revenue. Development of domestic industry will in the long run benefit the consumers.

Import of urea by MMTC

4309. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India has signed a contract with Quadros International on 15th July, 1993 for import of urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that MMTC has cancelled the said contract;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is also a fact that MMTC has charged Quadros for breach of terms of the contract and also claimed demurrage of Rupees four crores charged by the Shipping Company; and

(f) if so, the present status of the contract and the import of urea from Russia ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MMTC signed a contract for import of 25,000 MT ($\pm 5\%$) Urea of CIS origin at US $ 78 PMT FOB with M/s. Quadros International, Hongkong on 15-7-93. The shipment was to be effected from Yuzhny Port.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The contract was cancelled on 11-11-93 as the Supplier could not arrange the cargo shipment.

(e) Yes, Sir. MMTC has charged M/s. Quadros International with breach of the terms of the contract and claim has been lodged on account of demurrage.

(f) The purchase contract with M/s. Quadros International stands cancelled. MMTC has made risk purchase from another supplier in terms of the contract with M/s. Quadros International and imported 23270 MT urea on 16-11-93.